

harde to kepe theym beyng in flyght, specially the lower waye. And also of those, that hadde escaped vnto the playne, they, whyche hadde bene at the siege frome the begynnynge, for that, that they hadde knowlaige of the places saued theym selfe in their campe. But they that were newly come, coulde not kepe the waye, but rather wente wandryng the throughe the felde, who beyng perceyued by the horsemen their ennemyes, after that it was daye, were all slayne. The daye followinge the Syracusayns reysedde by twoo Trophes, to wytt, the one at the entrynge of Epipole, and the othere in the place, where the Chebayns made the firste resistance. And the Athenyans, confellyng vnto theyme the victoꝝ, demandedde their deade men whiche were in ryght greate nomber, but yet there was founde muche more harmes, than there were deade people, for that, that those, whyche fledde in the nyght, by the smalle rockes, and were constrained to leape frome a greate heighe downe, in manye places dydde caste of their harness for to be more easye, whereby there were manye, whyche sauedde theymsel.

Howe the Athenians after manye consultations, beinge determyned to reyse by their siege, and to departe fromethence, taryedde stylly through a superstition.

The ix. Chapter.

THys vnhoped victoꝝ caused the Syracusayns to reconer and take agayne both herte and audacitie, as bifoꝝe tyme. whereby vnderstaundyng that the Agragantyns were in some diuision amongst themselves, they sente thider Syranus, for to esape whider that he coulde wythdrawe theym to their allyance. On the other syde Epippus went by lande vnto the cyties of Syrcille, for to demande of theyme renfoꝝte or netwe succours of men, hoppyng by meane therof, and for the victoꝝ, which the Syracusains had had at Epipole, to take the walles of the Athenyans by force. Duryng this time, the Dukes and chiefe of the armye of the Athenyans were in greate sorowe, consideringe the ouerthrowe that they had receyuedde by the incomoditie of the campe, and of the armye whiche was in suche necessitie, that all generallye were greued and werpe of that same siege, specially bycause that it was all full of maladies, and diseases, by twoo reasons. The one, for the seasoꝝe of the yeaꝝe, which was than moste subiecte to diseases. The othere by reason of the place, where the campe was, for there were marrelles and lowe places, and in the rest verye incomodious. For the whiche reasons, Demosthenes was of oppynion that men ought not to tarye there. For sithens that yt was myshappenedde of the enterpryse of Epipole, whyche he hadde made, yt semedde to hym better for to departe fromethence, than for to tarye there, forsomuche as the sea was than good, and by reason of the shippes whiche he hadde broughte, he was more stronge by sea, than the ennemyes. And on the othere syde yt semedde vnto hym more conuenient and more necessarye to saylle for to defende their proper lande, where the ennemyes hadde enclosedde and fortifyedde a towne: than to consume the tyme and a greate quantyte of monney at the siege of a towne in a farre countrey, whereby there was no hope to take yt. Suche was the oppynion of Demosthenes. But Nycias, althoughe that he knewe all thies

III.

Difficulties,

The Seuenth boke of

Difficulties, yett he woulde not confesse theyme publiquely in tthat same assem-
 blie, norther agree that the siege shoulde be ceased and brokene of, fearynge leasse
 yt shoulde comme to the knowlaige of the ennemys. And mozeouer he hadde
 yet somme hope, for that that he knewe the affaires of the cytie better than anny
 of hys colleagues and compaignions, and considered that the length of the siege
 was moze to the disaduantage of the Syraculayns than vnto theirs, for that
 that they consumedde so muche monney, markedde specially the greate armye,
 whiche they susteignedde by sea. And also that same Nicias hadde secreete in-
 telligence and confederation wpyth some of the towne whych he wyllede hym se-
 cretly, that he shoulde not dislodge. For all the whych respectes he maignteig-
 nedde the matter and interruptedde the oppynion of those, that woulde that the
 siege shoulde haue bene reysedde, attendynge what myghte chance, and sayed o-
 penly that men oughte not to breake yt, and that he woulde neuer consente ther-
 to forsomuche as he knewe welle, that if they shoulde doo yt wpythoute lycence
 of the Athenyans, they woulde not be therewpyth contentedde. And that those
 whych shulde iudge vpon them whyder they hadde done wellle or euill, shulde
 not be of theyme that hadde bene in the campe, and that hadde sene the necessities
 of the armye: but they shoulde be othere people, whych woulde not geue sayth
 to that, whych the souldyars woulde saye: but soner to those, whych shulde ac-
 cuse theyme and charge theyme by sought or studyed meanes. And chiefly the
 moste parte of those same souldyars which were there and cryed that men ought
 to departe, whan they were retourned to Athens, woulde saye wholly otherwyle,
 to wytt, that they hadde not bene of the oppynion for to departe, but rather that
 the Dukes had bene corrupted for money, wherfore he, whiche knewe the nature
 of the Athenians, woulde not put himself in hazarde to be condemned, as flouth-
 full and naughty but he loued muche better to endure the danger of his persone
 agaynst the ennemys, if nederequyred it. And besydes that, he shewed the that
 the ennemys were in muche woorse estate than they, forsomuch as they were at
 great charge and expences for to waage buyzed souldyars and also for to enter-
 teigne one so great an armye by sea which they had already susteigned one whole
 yere for to warde, and defende the towne of their allyance, & also were in great
 necessities of victuailles and of all other thynges, in suche sorte, that it shulde be
 impossible for theym to susteigne longer that charges. For he knewe for trouthe
 that they had already spente moze than twoo thousande talentes and also were
 yet in great debte, and that if they failed neuer so lytle in payment of the buyzed
 souldiars, they shoulde be destroyed, for their force was moze of estrangiers than
 of their oune people, whiche thing was all otherwyle among them, wherfore he
 concluded that they oughte to continue the siege and not to departe frome yt, as
 though they were most neddy and lacking monney, where as they were much bet-
 ter fournyshed therof. Suche was the speaking of Nicias, hauing for right cer-
 taine the necessitie of the ennemys, chiefly of monney, and also groundynge him-
 selfe, vpon that, whiche, they, wpyth whome he had intelligence and confederation
 in the towne, had required of hym, to wytt, that no man shulde remoue, and tru-
 styng mozeouer in the armye by sea whiche they than had muche moze puissant,
 than whan that he was hainquished, bifoze that the renforte or newe succours
 was arryued. Notwithstāding Demosthenes perseuered styll in hys oppynion to
 reise the siege and for to departe from thence into Grece. And although it was de-
 uysed not to remoue out of the sayd countrey wpythoute lycence, yet he was of o-
 ppynion that they shulde retyze to Thapsus or to Catana. Out of whiche places
 they myght come for to oueronne & pillage the lande of the ennemys and well
 enterteigne